

student loans; and encourages Federal financial institutions to exercise their existing authorities to ensure borrowers have access to Federal loan funds in the upcoming academic year.

Here in Congress, we must ensure that access to higher education is as unfettered as possible. As our economy goes more and more global we have to assure that our future generation will be able to effectively compete on the world stage.

I strongly support this bi-partisan legislation that makes access to college more affordable thereby giving greater opportunities to many more to pursue the American dream. The Ensuring Continued Access to Federal Students Loans Act will achieve its goal at no additional cost to the government and with so much money being spent on building infrastructure in Iraq by the Executive branch it is encouraging to see the Congress show fiscal restraint and responsibility.

I would like to commend Chairman MILLER and Ranking Member McKEON for their work and leadership in bringing this bill to the floor so families can receive relief before this coming August.

RECOGNIZING MAYA ANGELOU ON HER 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 80th birthday of Dr. Maya Angelou, one of the great voices of contemporary literature and a remarkable Renaissance woman.

I had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Angelou when I attended Yale University. She was a mentor to me then, not for her literary works, which were inspiring, but for her love for the least of us. She maintains a passion for all people regardless of race, gender, or class.

Dr. Angelou was born in St. Louis, Missouri, on April 4, 1928, and attended public schools in Arkansas and California. Dr. Angelou is truly a woman of great vision, grace, and intellect. She speaks French, Spanish, Italian, Arabic, West African Fanti, and English.

In addition to written and spoken word, for which she is most known, she has other accomplishments that have not received as much attention. She taught modern dance at the Rome Opera House and the Hambina Theatre in Tel Aviv. She has been a civil and human rights activist for many years, and in fact was the northern coordinator for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, SCLC, in 1959, appointed at the request of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

HONORARY DEGREES AND AWARDS

Maya Angelou has been honored by several universities, Howard University to Spellman College, from Columbia University to the University of Southern California giving her over 30 honorary degrees.

She has received Tony Awards, Grammy Awards, Woman of the Year Awards, a Congressional Tribute by Former Congressman Kweisi Mfume, and even a Presidential Medal of Arts from President Bill Clinton.

BOOKS, POEMS, AND SHORT STORIES

Maya Angelou is known for her stirring poems and storytelling abilities. "On the Pulse of the Morning" and "Phenomenal Women" were two of the poems that helped her become only the second poet in U.S. history to have the honor of writing and reciting original work at the Presidential inauguration.

Dr. Angelou has authored 12 bestselling books including "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings," "A Song Flung Up to Heaven," and "Even the Stars Look Lonesome." She has the unique ability to shatter the opaque prisms of race, class, and gender between the reader and the subject. She captivates her audience, be they children in Tel Aviv, Civil Rights Leaders, or even Presidents.

CONCLUSION

I would have had us sing to Maya Angelou on her 80th birthday, but I would rather say thank you. Thank you, Dr. Angelou, for your dedication to civil and human rights, thank you for your activism, your perceptive stories and poems, thank you for your wisdom, and thank you for reminding us how powerful language can be. For Maya Angelou has moved hearts and minds with her lyric and prose.

I thank Maya Angelou for being a Phenomenal Woman, for now we understand "Just why [your] head is not bowed. Why you don't shout or jump about, or have to talk real loud. Why when we see you pass by, we are so proud, Some say, It's in the click of your heels, the bend of your hair, the palm of your hand, the need of your care, But its because you are a woman, Phenomenally. Phenomenal woman . . . that, Dr. Angelou, is you.

Happy 80th Birthday, Maya Angelou.

PHENOMENAL WOMAN

(By Maya Angelou)

Pretty women wonder where my secret lies.
I'm not cute or built to suit a fashion model's size

But when I start to tell them,
They think I'm telling lies.

I say,
It's in the reach of my arms
The span of my hips,
The stride of my step,
The curl of my lips.
I'm a woman
Phenomenally.
Phenomenal woman,
That's me.

I walk into a room
Just as cool as you please,
And to a man,
The fellows stand or
Fall down on their knees.
Then they swarm around me,
A hive of honey bees.

I say,
It's the fire in my eyes,
And the flash of my teeth,
The swing in my waist,
And the joy in my feet.
I'm a woman
Phenomenally.
Phenomenal woman,
That's me.

Men themselves have wondered
What they see in me.
They try so much
But they can't touch
My inner mystery.
When I try to show them
They say they still can't see.
I say,
It's in the arch of my back,

The sun of my smile,
The ride of my breasts,
The grace of my style.
I'm a woman
Phenomenally.
Phenomenal woman,
That's me.

Now you understand
Just why my head's not bowed.
I don't shout or jump about
Or have to talk real loud.
When you see me passing
It ought to make you proud.
I say,
It's in the click of my heels,
The bend of my hair,
The palm of my hand,
The need of my care,
'Cause I'm a woman
Phenomenally.
Phenomenal woman,
That's me.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE RETIREMENT OF LEROY R. CLINK

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I wish to celebrate the accomplishments of Mr. Leroy R. Clink, Sr. for his 30 years of service. Below is a brief description of his accomplishments.

Leroy Clink comes from humble origins, attending a two room schoolhouse in West Granville, MA. After graduating from Westfield High School, he went on to New England College to receive his Bachelors of Science in Civil Engineering. He also obtained a Master of Science in Engineering Management from Western New England College.

Mr. Clink was an impressively well-rounded college student. During his time at New England College, Mr. Clink ascended to the presidency of the Sigma Alpha Beta Fraternity, in addition to becoming Chairman of the Inter-Fraternity Council. Mr. Clink displayed his leadership skills in the Student Senate. He was also the First New England college student to be a voting member of the College Admissions Committee. Mr. Clink was able to find time in his busy schedule to become a student guide, dormitory proctor, and a student member of ASCE.

Mr. Clink began his professional career in 1978 at Westover Air Reserve Base as a Pavements Engineer. From there he became the Project Engineer in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He served as a Base Civil Engineer at the Westover ARB, where he coordinated construction projects. Mr. Clink has played an imperative role in runway overlays, east ramp improvements, water distribution, and base operations. He also played an active role as a security police officer. In addition, he was involved in control tower, base civil engineering, and Marines site support element.

Before his retirement, he was working on the New BRAC projects Armed Forces Reserve Center and the Navy Sea Bee Battalion Facility. On this occasion, I am proud to mark 30 years of Mr. Clink's service and to congratulate him on his well-deserved retirement.